



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Announcement

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES OFFICE RESTRUCTURING
TO ENHANCE NATIONAL SECURITY PRIORITIES**

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced an expansion of his Office's Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) today, with the addition of two more, highly experienced Assistant United States Attorneys to that seven-member unit. Joining CTU will be Stephen T. Robinson, a 24-year veteran fraud prosecutor with expertise in complicated financial investigations, and Ronald W. Waterstreet, a 17-year career federal prosecutor who has specialized in complex narcotics conspiracies and money laundering cases. The staffing changes are designed to increase the ability of the Unit to respond to national security needs, and to implement the Department of Justice's top priorities of preventing terrorism and protecting homeland security.

"This is the second time since becoming United States Attorney that I have made staffing reassignments to better equip our office to handle not only all of our usual law enforcement responsibilities but also the Department's primary goal of protecting national security," said United States Attorney Murphy.

United States Attorney Murphy will be available throughout the remainder of this week to answer media inquiries on this topic.

Created in 2002 as a five-member unit in response to the 9/11 attacks, the mission of the Detroit office's Counter-Terrorism Unit (CTU) is to investigate and prosecute those who

might plan, financially support, or carry out international and domestic terrorist activities. More recently, and consistent with the Department's creation of a separate National Security Division following the extension of the USA-PATRIOT Act, the Unit's responsibilities have expanded to include other investigations and prosecutions involving national security. These matters touch upon foreign counterintelligence matters, espionage, and certain transnational organized crime groups involved in alien smuggling, cash smuggling and the operation of illegal unlicensed money transmitting businesses.

"Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen T. Robinson and Ronald Waterstreet are newly appointed as CTU members. These fine prosecutors will apply their extensive knowledge and expertise in handling complex investigations, and further assist the office in working with its partners in the law enforcement and intelligence communities," said Murphy.

White-collar crime specialist Stephen Robinson has been with the United States Attorney's Office for more than two decades, and has served as lead prosecutor in several corporate fraud prosecutions. Narcotics prosecutor Ronald Waterstreet is a 17-plus year veteran of the United States Attorney's Office, having handled numerous high profile drug and money laundering prosecutions. Waterstreet and Robinson will join last year's most recent additions to the CTU: Senior Litigation Counsel Michael Buckley, a 16-year veteran and former deputy chief of the Controlled Substance Unit; as well as Intelligence Research Specialist Todd Paxton, a current U.S. Army Intelligence reserve officer and former member of the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Other Assistant United States Attorneys in Detroit's CTU include: Cynthia Oberg, a 14-year office veteran, who between 1998 and 2003 led the Detroit Metro Identity Fraud Task Force; Gary Felder, a 28-year office veteran and Public Corruption/Civil Rights specialist; Cathleen Corken, formerly deputy chief of the Terrorism and Violent Crime Section at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.; and Kenneth Chadwell, a 17-year office veteran and current Anti-Terrorism Immigration Coordinator.

In May 2005, United States Attorney Murphy elevated former Organized Crime Strike Force Attorney and CTU Deputy Chief Eric Straus, who has served the Office for more than 19 years, to become Chief of the Counter Terrorism Unit. Likewise, Murphy appointed Assistant United States Attorney Barbara McQuade, the office's Crisis Management Coordinator and former judicial law clerk for Chief Judge Bernard A. Friedman, to serve as Deputy Chief of the Unit.

“Clearly the depth of talent and experience of the lawyers in our CTU make this fine group of Assistant United States Attorneys one of the most accomplished groups of prosecutors in the upper Midwest, if not the nation. This is truly an elite cadre of antiterrorism specialists, whose sole mission is to keep the citizens of our district safe every day,” said Murphy earlier today.

The CTU of United States Attorney’s Office in Detroit is one of only a handful established nationwide to address national security matters, and of these, it is among the largest.

Other personnel changes announced by Murphy in addition to those of the Counter-Terrorism Unit include the appointment of Assistant United States Attorneys Daniel Lemisch to be Deputy Chief of the Controlled Substance Unit; Stephanie Davis to serve as Counselor to the Controlled Substance Unit, Chief for HIDTA Coordination; and Christopher Varner and Sarah Resnick Cohen to join the Economic Crimes Unit.

The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan prosecutes civil and criminal matters on behalf of the United States of America and its agencies in the 34 counties that make up the eastern half of the state. The Office serves a population of more than 6.7 million Michigan residents and comprises approximately 100 Assistant United States Attorneys and a similar number of support staff.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy was appointed by President Bush to his position on March 8, 2005 and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate three months later.